

*Testimony
Of
Honorable Robert L. Bowser
Mayor
City of East Orange, New Jersey*

*Information Policy, Census, and National
Archives Subcommittee
Oversight and Government Reform Committee*

“Census Data and its use in Federal Formula Funding”

*Thursday, July 9, 2009
2247Rayburn House Office Building, Room
2:00 p.m.*

Good Afternoon, Chairman Clay and Ranking Member McHenry and Members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for inviting me here today; I am Robert L. Bowser, Mayor of the City of East Orange, New Jersey. As Mayor of the City of East Orange, when it comes to the Census, nothing is more important than a fair and accurate count of all people residing in our city.

On behalf of the City of East Orange, New Jersey, I urge you to be counted in the 2010 Census. Your participation is vital to insure that your voice is heard in Congress. A complete count also guarantees our community will get its fair share of federal dollars...money for schools, hospitals, roads, and social services.

This count includes the homeless, the legal, **and** the undocumented. We are all entitled to the same services provided within our city, it's easy, important and safe to participate **and** all information is confidential. To insure an accurate count in the City of East Orange we plan to engage our community with a team of people; coordinators/leaders of various ethnic backgrounds

who look like and speak the same language. A complete and accurate count means a sustainable/better... way of life **for all people**.

Historically, we, in East Orange, believe the last two Census counts were seriously flawed resulting in an undercount in excess of 12%. As a city, we rely on accurate population figures for all State, County and Federal applications for grants and supplemental aid for many, if not all, programs. In this present economy municipal government has to fight for and look for fiscal help where ever it is available. The Census figures are the one common factor in all applications and the compelling argument for justification and need. We, at the local level must meet our obligation to provide services, and the opportunity for services, to all of our constituents.